

# SCHEDULE FOR SACRED MUSIC SYMPOSIUM 2025

In the event of unforeseen conflicts, we reserve the right to make adjustments to this schedule.

This schedule was last updated on 2 June 2025

**Location** • With the exception of the TLM wedding being sung at Sacred Heart Parish in Grand Rapids, MI—where PALESTRINA500 is happening—**all Symposium events** will take place on the campus of Saint Mary's Catholic Church: 239 W Clay Ave • Muskegon, MI 49440.

\* As per the exhortation (5 July 2016) by the Vatican's chief liturgist, all Masses at Saint Mary's are offered *ad orientem*.

Events marked in **yellow** are mandatory.

	Monday (23 June)	Tuesday (24 June)	Wednesday (25 June)	Thursday (26 June)	Friday (27 June)	Saturday (28 June)	Sunday (29 June)
8:30am	* In the past, our symposium had various themes: Roman Catholic hymnody; how to build a children's choir; 16th-century counterpoint; different ways to accompany Gregorian Chant on the organ; and so forth. This year, we <b>narrow our focus</b> to one main theme:	8:30am - 9:50am : "29 Tips" (Part 2 of 5) Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what <b>style</b> of music you're doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: "29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs."	8:30am - 9:50am : "29 Tips" (Part 3 of 5) Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what <b>style</b> of music you're doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: "29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs."	8:30am - 9:50am : "29 Tips" (Part 4 of 5) Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what <b>style</b> of music you're doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: "29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs."	8:30am - 9:50am : "29 Tips" (Part 5 of 5) All instruction today deals with how to recruit choir members.	<b>On Saturday</b> , we travel to Grand Rapids—40+ minutes from Muskegon—to <b>Sacred Heart Parish</b> (where PALESTRINA500 is being held): 151 Garfield Ave SW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 There, we'll sing for a TLM wedding (which begins at 12:30 pm). <b>Saturday's dress rehearsal</b> —with professional members of Jonathan Bading's choir— <b>will begin at 9:30am.</b>	Call time for the dress rehearsal on Sunday morning is <b>8:45am.</b>
10:00am	<i>Avoiding Common Pitfalls of Parish Choirs.</i>  * <i>Nothing is scheduled on Monday morning because many are arriving at the airport.</i>	10:00am - Noon : <b>Interactive Rehearsal</b> This is not a "normal" rehearsal. It is "interactive"—i.e., it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He'll talk about the importance of "Plan B Polyphony" specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.	10:00am Incredible surprise you won't want to miss! 10:15am - Noon : <b>Interactive Rehearsal</b> This is not a "normal" rehearsal. It is "interactive"—i.e., it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He'll talk about the importance of "Plan B Polyphony" specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.	10:00am - Noon : <b>Interactive Rehearsal</b> This is not a "normal" rehearsal. It is "interactive"—i.e., it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He'll talk about the importance of "Plan B Polyphony" specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.	10:00am - Noon : <b>Interactive Rehearsal</b> This is not a "normal" rehearsal. It is "interactive"—i.e., it demonstrates how a rehearsal should be run & demands feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He'll talk about the importance of "Plan B Polyphony" specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.		
12:10pm	12:10pm • Mass at St. Mary's ( <i>Novus Ordo</i>   <i>ad orientem</i> )	12:10pm - 1:10pm <b>Lunch</b> Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.	12:10pm - 1:10pm <b>Lunch</b> Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.	12:10pm • Mass at St. Mary's ( <i>Novus Ordo</i>   <i>ad orientem</i> )	12:10pm • Mass at St. Mary's ( <i>Latin Novus Ordo</i> ) <b>We'll sing something relatively simple for this Mass.</b>		We will sing the 10:00am (Ordinary Form) parish Mass at Saint Mary's.
1:10pm	1:10pm - 1:40pm <b>Registration</b> Come register, get your free booklet (containing all musical scores), & socialize with other participants.	1:20pm - 2:50pm <b>Plainsong</b> (Carmen Gregorianum) <b>Kaitrin Drost</b> will instruct the <b>female</b> participants in <i>Carmen Gregorianum</i> ("Gregorian Chant").	1:20pm - 2:50pm <b>Plainsong</b> (Carmen Gregorianum) <b>Kaitrin Drost</b> will instruct the <b>female</b> participants in <i>Carmen Gregorianum</i> ("Gregorian Chant").	1:00pm - 2:00pm <b>Lunch</b> Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.	1:00pm - 2:00pm <b>Lunch</b> Many restaurants are near the church campus; e.g. right across the street is a brand new food court w/ Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, etc.	<b>P</b> RIVATE composition lessons with Kevin Allen will be scheduled during the week on an individual basis. Potential spots are outlined with red ink.	
2:10pm	1:50pm - 3:50pm <b>Optional Sectionals</b>	<b>Corrinne May</b> will instruct the <b>male</b> participants in <i>Carmen Gregorianum</i> ("Gregorian Chant")	<b>Corrinne May</b> will instruct the <b>male</b> participants in <i>Carmen Gregorianum</i> ("Gregorian Chant")	2:10 - 2:50pm <b>Plainsong</b> (Carmen Gregorianum) <i>Divisi like Tuesday &amp; Wednesday</i>	2:10pm - 2:50pm <b>Wedding Dress Rehearsal</b> This won't take place in Grand Rapids—it will be on Saint Mary's campus.		
3:00pm	Kevin Allen will lead <b>men</b> (who wish to participate) in sectional rehearsals. Kaitrin Drost will do likewise with the <b>women</b> .  4:00pm - 5:00pm <b>Keynote Address</b> "Palestrina500 and Evangelization through Beauty"  5:10pm - 7:00pm : "29 Tips" (Part 1 of 5)  Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what <b>style</b> of music you're doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: "29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs."	3:00pm - 5:00pm <b>Plenary Rehearsal</b> <b>Kevin Allen</b> will run this rehearsal. Items he'll focus on include: Newman's "Lead Kindly Light"; the Gloria commissioned for Sacred Music Symposium 2025; and "Quam Dilecta."  Corrinne May might use some of this rehearsal for Palestrina's "Ave Maria."	3:00pm - 5:00pm <b>Plenary Rehearsal</b> <b>Kevin Allen</b> will run this rehearsal. Items he'll focus on include: Newman's "Lead Kindly Light"; the Gloria commissioned for Sacred Music Symposium 2025; and "Quam Dilecta."  Corrinne May might use some of this rehearsal for Palestrina's "Ave Maria."	3:00pm - 5:00pm <b>Plenary Rehearsal</b>  <b>Corrinne May &amp; Kevin Allen</b> will run this rehearsal. Items include: Newman's "Lead Kindly Light"; the Gloria commissioned for Sacred Music Symposium 2025; and "Quam Dilecta."  Corrinne May will focus on conducting the Palestrina "Ave Maria"	3:00pm - 4:00pm <b>How to create &amp; typeset gorgeous Gregorian Chant scores</b> Jeff Ostrowski will present this workshop. Those who need to leave early due to PALESTRINA500 are welcome to leave early.		
5:10pm	<b>Jonathan Bading</b> ; choirmaster & organist at Sacred Heart Parish in Grand Rapids, where Palestrina500 is happening  5:10pm - 7:00pm : "29 Tips" (Part 1 of 5)  Why do some choirs sound unpleasant? No matter what <b>style</b> of music you're doing—even plainsong—it ought to sound attractive & beautiful (in spite of what some claim). Jeff Ostrowski provides 29 tips on how to stand in front of a volunteer choir and live to tell the tale! This lecture is called: "29 Tips: Avoiding Common Pitfalls For Parish Choirs."	5:10pm - 6:10pm <b>Rhythm of Plainsong</b> Jeff Ostrowski will discuss what every serious Catholic musician should know about this <b>fascinating</b> topic.	5:10pm - 6:10pm <b>Repertoire for 3 Voices</b> Kaitrin Drost will give examples of repertoire for three voices that will take your breath away—and her two daughters will help her demonstrate!	5:10pm - 6:00pm <b>Lecture by Corrinne May</b> Corrinne, a platinum singer/songwriter, will tell the fascinating story of establishing a massive volunteer choir—and a choral movement in Singapore—in the OF ... despite numerous obstacles.		4:00pm • Mass at St. Mary's ( <i>Novus Ordo</i>   <i>ad orientem</i> ) <b>This is the parish "anticipated" Mass on Saturday night.</b>  5:15pm - 7:00pm <b>Interactive Rehearsal</b> <b>This is no "normal" rehearsal.</b> It's "interactive"—that is, Jeff demonstrates <b>how</b> rehearsals should be run & requires feedback from participants. Jeff Ostrowski will focus on the pieces by Morales, Gombert, & the Palestrina Alleluia. He'll talk about the importance of "Plan B Polyphony" specifically vis-à-vis the Kyrie.	
6:15pm		6:15pm - 7:00pm <b>Lecture by Kevin Allen</b> Kevin will offer a "survey" lecture on modern sacred music.  *What pieces of contemporary sacred music should every serious Catholic musician be familiar with?"	6:15pm • Holy Mass at St. Mary's ( <i>Bi-Lingual</i>   <i>ad orientem</i> ) <b>Anyone who desires to attend is encouraged to do so.</b>	6:15pm - 7:15pm  Some of Jeff's choir members will join us for this rehearsal—more will be explained later.  <b>Corrinne May</b> might use some of this rehearsal to conduct Palestrina's "Ave Maria."			
7:00pm	No day will end later than 7:00pm • Because of the various food allergies people have these days, catering will not be provided for the 2025 Symposium . However, innumerable restaurants are near the church (as well as nearby towns, such as Grand Haven)—so participants will have no difficulty obtaining food. Indeed, numerous restaurants located are within 500 yards of the church campus, including a brand new food court across the street with a bar, Vietnamese cuisine, Mexican cuisine, American cuisine, and so forth.						